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of the earth and many of them are well adapted for the edification of the general reader.

We may regard this book by Prof. Nordenskjöld as an excellent example of what may be done, in this way, for the polar regions. He has not attempted, however, to cover the whole area of known polar lands but has given special attention to those Arctic and Antarctic territories and neighbouring lands, such as Tierra del Fuego, which he, himself, has visited. The book is very largely composed of a series of popular lectures which he delivered during the winter of 1907 at the University of Gothenburg. He gives no narratives of exploration, but his pages are filled with their results, the additions they have made to our knowledge of these remote parts of the world; and he presents the fruits of research in a simple and interesting manner. In his chapter on Greenland, for example, he gives the main facts that have been revealed to us about the inland ice, the coastal regions, the fiord territory of Scoresby Sound, the remarkable area known as Jameson Land, in East Greenland, where there are no glaciers and most of the land is covered with vegetation, the animal life, the origin of the land forms, the climate, Eskimos and Danish colonization. In the same way, he treats Iceland and Jan Mayen, Spitzbergen, the Antarctic lands and the colder parts of North America, Siberia and northwest Europe. The book is of only medium size, but in it is the essence of many volumes of exploratory and scientific endeavour. It is handsomely printed and illustrated and we may hope that it is only the forerunner of other works on the polar regions similarly planned.

Mission scientifique au Dahomey. Par Henry Hubert. 568 pp., Illustrations and Maps. Émil Larose, Paris, 1908. 15 frs.

This is one of the fine monographs on parts of French Africa, a considerable number of which are being issued by Larose. The author was officially commissioned to study the geological formations and the mineral resources of Dahomey and for two years (1904-6) he carried on his researches through a series of journeys into every part of the colony. He also gave large attention to the geography, climate and natives of the country and the result is that his work is the record of the most thorough and scientific study yet made of this part of Africa. Part 1 of his book is an excellent geographical description of Dahomey. In Part 2, which occupies the greater part of the book, he deals with the physical geography, geology, mineralogy, meteorology and petrography of the country; and in Part 3 he shows the influence which these physical phenomena have exerted in the distribution of the human inhabitants and of some species of vegetable life. The illustrative material, including 86 figures, maps and diagrams a geological map in colours and 49 photographic reproductions, are informing and the author had the advantage of consulting considerable map material still unpublished in the preparation of his maps.

Labrador, the Country and the People. By Wilfred T. Grenfell, C.M.G., M.R.C.S., M.D., and Others. xii and 497 pp., Maps, Illustrations, 6 Appendixes and Index. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1909. \$2.25.

We have long had the late Prof. A. S. Packard's book on the Labrador Coast, a volume of solid worth which is still useful. His work, however, was published eighteen years ago and a large part of our present information about the great peninsula has been revealed since that time. Many of the more recent discoveries and researches have been recorded in reports and books, but the present

volume by Dr. Grenfell and his collaborators is the first attempt to set forth and co-ordinate the more important features of our present knowledge of Labrador. The task has been conscientiously and ably performed and we may welcome this book as the culmination, thus far, of the writings on Labrador as a whole, an authoritative geographical work on a part of our continent that is about as large as Alaska and which, in the course of development, promises to bear a part in the world's work that will not be inconspicuous.

For some seventeen years, Dr. Grenfell has been well known for the humanitarian work to which he is devoting his life in Labrador. All this time he has been collecting facts about the country, its white, Indian and Eskimo inhabitants or summer sojourners, their industries and state of culture. He has selected material from this mass of information to fill ten of the sixteen chapters of the book. Ten other writers, skilled in various branches of science, who have given special attention to one or another phase of Labrador, have written the remaining chapters and the six appendixes. The whole product shows us Labrador as it is now known; and one of the best features of the work is that its chapters and to a considerable extent, its appendixes, which deal with the Insects of Labrador, the Marine Crustacea, the Mollusks, and lists of the Mammals, Birds and Crustacea, are well adapted to interest and edify the general reader.

The chapters by Dr. Grenfell have to do largely with the human and economic aspects of the country. He treats of the routes to Labrador, of the peoples of the coast, the missions, the reindeer, whose recent introduction promises to be brilliantly successful, the dogs and their great usefulness, the cod, salmon, herring and other fish and the fisheries and the ocean mammals. He also has a very significant chapter which he entitles "The Physiography of Labrador," though he does not give to the word "physiography" exactly the meaning that American geographers apply to it, for he presents not only a sketch of the surface features but also the climatic conditions and their effects upon animal and vegetable life, the tidal movements and the prevailing weather and the activities of the people, on or off shore, for each month of the year. This chapter is one of his finest contributions to the work.

The historical introduction is supplied by Mr. W. S. Wallace of Oxford; no better man could have been selected to write of the interior of the peninsula than Dr. A. P. Low of the Canadian Geological Survey; Prof. R. A. Daly, one of our prominent geologists, writes of the geology and scenery of the northeast coast and Mr. William B. Cabot, of the Indians whose habits he has had unique opportunities for observing.

The geological map in colours is not quite adequate geographically. It indicates the large Nascaupée and George rivers as, to a great extent, unexplored, the fact being that the *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, in September, 1906, published a map giving the entire courses of these rivers and this information has been reproduced on maps of the Canadian Geological Survey and on many maps published in Europe.

Géologie. Par Stanislas Meunier, Professeur de Géologie au Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, et à l'école nationale d'agriculture de Grignon. xxix and 988 pp., Illustrations and Index. Vuibert et Nony, Paris, 1909.

Professor Meunier's object has been to write a book which should be practical, namely, one which should contain, in one volume, everything which the would-be geologist ought to know in order to become efficient in his chosen work. He has,